

Main vs. Impact Story Character Report for "Züriputsch by Bernhard Hirzel"

The Main vs. Impact Storyline is the battle ground of the Main and Impact characters. It is the realm in which the passionate argument is explored. We see this argument through the eyes of the Main Character. We also see how it is affected by the impact of the Impact Character.

This is illustrated in "Züriputsch by Bernhard Hirzel" by the relationship between Bernhard Hirzel and Johannes Hirzel II. To start with, Bernhard Hirzel is primarily Concerned with an activity or endeavor in regard to **Understanding**, while Johannes Hirzel II's chief Concern is a manner of thinking or demeanor of **Developing a Plan**. Clearly, they are not concerned with the same things.

Bernhard Hirzel evaluates **Understanding** in terms of **Instinct** and **Conditioning**. In contrast, Johannes Hirzel II measures his concern with **Developing a Plan** by how it relates to **State of Being** and **Sense of Self**.

If they were to argue, Bernhard Hirzel might say, "We must **understand** because of our **Instinct**." To which Johannes Hirzel II might respond, "No, we must not **conceptualize** because of **State of Being**." Definitely apples and oranges. But that is what makes any argument real. Arguments occur not so much because people disagree, but because they simply aren't really talking about the same things.

Of course, many other arguments will occur between Bernhard Hirzel and Johannes Hirzel II involving not only **Instinct** vs. **State of Being** but **Conditioning** vs. **Sense of Self** as well. And, they will argue as to whether **Understanding** or **Developing a Plan** is of more concern.

Bernhard Hirzel will press his argument forward using his abilities involving **Conditioning**, while Johannes Hirzel II will respond with his own strengths in regard to **Sense of Self**. Things would really heat up fast if Bernhard Hirzel were not undermined by **State of Being** and Johannes Hirzel II hamstrung by **Instinct**.

What happens? In the end, success is not achieved in the Overall story, and Bernhard Hirzel fails to resolve his personal problems, clearly showing that Johannes Hirzel II was not really giving him good advice all along.

In summary, Bernhard Hirzel and Johannes Hirzel II fail to see eye to eye. While Bernhard Hirzel is concerned with an activity or endeavor in regard to **Understanding**:

"Bei dem letzten Säkulum-Wechsel zeigte sich aber eine Erscheinung, welche wie es gewiss ist im Völkerleben so auch im Familienleben ein Vorzeichen des baldigen Untergangs zu sein scheint; "

"Und wirklich gibt es gegenwärtig, trotz der grossen Zahl von Familiengliedern keinen einzigen Hirzel mehr, der in irgendwelcher Beziehung irgendwelche Bedeutung hätte, "

"Da die in ihrem Stolze verletzte Familie sah, dass der Kopf des Jungen nicht zu brechen war, so suchte sie ihn wenigstens pekuniär sicher zu stellen und gab ihn bei einem Handwerker in die Lehre, der ein grosses Vermögen und eine einzige Tochter hatte. Beachte hier, mein Lieber, das stufenweise Degenerieren meiner Branche. Hätte mein Grossvater statt einer reichen, ungebildeten eine weniger reiche, gebildete Frau aus seinem Stande gewählt, so würde letztere die Erziehung ihres Sohnes gewiss nicht so sehr vernachlässigt haben; "

"Ich hörte wieder deutlich die Stimme, die in meiner frühen Jugend mir zugerufen: „Der Fluch von den Eltern her drückt dich zu Boden; du bist bestimmt zum Untergang!“ "

"Indessen konnte ich doch noch beten und betete, nicht um Leben und Glück, sondern um Gelegenheit, durch Tod oder Unglück ändern noch nützlich zu werden. – "

"Mein einziger Trost war, ich wisse es ja längst, dass ich zum Untergang

geboren sei."

...Johannes Hirzel II's chief concern is a manner of thinking or demeanor of **Developing a Plan**:

*He works hard.
He gets angry when wife and son pray.
He should not know about spending on books.*

Bernhard Hirzel looks at **Understanding** as it relates to **Instinct** and **Conditioning**:

Bernhard's instinct is to react with impulsive actions, driven by emotions of love and lust. He is not aware, that he could change this. Why not?

...but Johannes Hirzel II is more interested in how **Developing a Plan** relates to **State of Being** and **Sense of Self**:

The violent behavior and almost obsessive interest for money, are an expression of a deep deception with all aesthetic and spiritual values. Johannes seems to be a very lonely man.

Each strives to press their point home: Bernhard Hirzel bolstered by his abilities involving **Conditioning**:

Bernhard's world view and his sensual and open character, as well as his focus on spirituality more than on material values, make him most apt to find a bridge between the fierce materialism of the radicals and the blind spirituality of the fundamentalist conservatives. He seems to be aware of it, but his lack of political skills hinder him.

...(though held back by **State of Being**):

At first sight, in terms of Logotherapy, Bernhard would be described as neurotic. Other's already tried to psychoanalyze him as a psychopate. This is supported by his suicide. In general Western culture evaluates any suicide as a mislead action, a failure or even a wrong doing. Nevertheless, there were quite a few cases during the time of Bernhard, including spiritual people and revolutionary leaders. Did he suffer a form of burn-out syndrom? Did he give up because his economic problems locked all other options for the future? Or shall we take him serious and evaluate his action as "rational"? Did he commit a form of honour suicide? Did he find in surrender a way to escape the curse he so much believed in? Probably, it will never been known. For many others, he became a sign, that their spirituality was taken serious, and their voice, the popular veto was justified to count.

...and Johannes Hirzel II relying on his strengths in regard to **Sense of Self** :

From viewpoint of Bernhard's story Johannes seems a strong and self-confident man. But the Johannes action's tell another story. Neither is anything known about Johannes conception of a possible "family curse".

...(though he too is held back, undermined by **Instinct**):

Towards the end, father Johannes rejects to pay for his son Bernhard's debts and allows that he is seized by his creditors. Does he believe that it is a didactic measurement? Does he withdraw his love from his son by rejecting him

economic support? Whatever the answer is, money is the language Johannes speaks and Bernhard doesn't know to understand.

When the smoke clears, success has not been achieved in the Overall story:

Before the Züriputsch, Bernhard believed in the possibility that he could overcome the family curse, that he is the solution, the savior, that he could change the world. He believed that liberal Enlightenment was possible in Zürich. After the Züriputsch, he believes rather to be the problem, that has to be eliminated. He thinks that he failed and that he would be unable to fulfil ever life's quest to become different than his father (different in the sense of better). But he returns to the metaphysics of Pantheism and a Platonic world view. He no longer tries to change himself, he just gives up.

...and Bernhard Hirzel has failed to resolve his personal problems:

All his efforts have brought no result. Whatever he does, he makes things only worse.

Semantic items in this report: **Change; Failure; Bad; Stop; Activity; Understanding; Manipulation; Developing a Plan; Instinct; Conditioning; State of Being; Sense of Self; Conditioning; State of Being; Sense of Self; Instinct.**

VOCABULARY:

Activity: an activity or endeavor

Bad: Bernhard Hirzel ultimately fails in resolving his personal problems

Change: Bernhard Hirzel changes his essential nature while attempting to solve the problem

Conditioning: responses based on experience or training

Developing a Plan: visualizing how an existing idea might be implemented

Failure: the original goal is not achieved

Instinct: intrinsic unconditioned responses

Manipulation: a manner of thinking or demeanor

Sense of Self: one's perception of oneself

State of Being: one's true nature

Stop: regarding Bernhard Hirzel, the audience is waiting for something to end

Understanding: appreciating the meaning of something